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QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR: QUESTION OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

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G. Indonesia

Information reviewed and transmitted to the Government

75. The Working Group's previous activities in relation to Indonesia appear in its three prior reports.[19] In 1980 and 1981 the Working Group transmitted to the Government of Indonesia information on 23 reported disappearances which took place in the period 1977-1980. Eighteen persons reportedly disappeared after they surrendered to military forces or were arrested or captured; one person disappeared from prison and one was allegedly shown on television by the authorities prior to his disappearance. Most were reportedly connected with the Frente Revolucionária de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN).

76. During 1982 the Government of Indonesia reported that it had no further information to convey to the Working Group and that it had concluded an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with a view to finding the facts relating to the alleged missing persons as well as tracing them. The Government suggested that the Working Group should contact ICRC to obtain the appropriate information on the matter. In a letter dated 13 July 1983, ICRC stated that, following a discussion with those concerned, an informal understanding had been reached on the procedure for investigating cases of disappearances. In accordance with this understanding, as well as with ICRC principles, ICRC only proceeds with a tracing request from the family, keeping the Working Group informed about the progress of its investigations. The results will be communicated directly to the family only. Given the above, ICRC suggested that, in future, a copy of any inquiry received from a relative with a request for tracing in East Timor, should be forwarded to ICRC and the inquirer should be advised to contact ICRC directly. Should any progress be made after the receipt of requests from the respective families, ICRC would inform accordingly. Later in the year the ICRC announced that it had suspended its activities on the main island of East Timor.

77. The following is a statistical summary of the reports of enforced or involuntary disappearances in Indonesia dealt with by the Working Group since it was established:

I.	Cases transmitted to the Government by the Working Group (see para. 75 above)	23
II.	Responses received from the Government relating to cases transmitted by the Working Group	0
III.	Cases clarified by information from non-governmental sources[20]	1

19/ E/CN.4/1435, paras. 117-121; E/CN.4/1492, paras. 110-113; E/CN.4/1983/14, paras. 70-73.

20/ Persons arrested and in prison: 1.